The lapsing of the allotment for Panchayat roads.

77. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether any amounts allotted for maintenance of roads in the Tiruvilluamala Panchayat and other Panchayats have lapsed owing to maintenance of certain roads not being attended to;

(b) what action does the Superintendent take to prevent lapse?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Superintendent calls for definite proposals in time. In the case of works already executed or under execution the Superintendent calls for accounts.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How is it that these amounts have lapsed? I say that the amount should not be allowed to lapse.

President.—If the amount lapses, how could the maintenance of roads be looked after?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It is probable that the Panchayats had not submitted accounts in time.

President.—Then, is it the fault of the Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes. They are asked to submit accounts, but some times they are late in sending up estimates. So the amounts lapse.

President.—Have we not power to make the Panchayats work properly? If Panchayats do not submit estimates in time for sanction, what are we to do?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—They can be asked to take up the work immediately.

President.—How is it possible? They must prepare the estimates and send them up.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The Overseer should go there and prepare the estimates, for the Panchayat members are lay men to this work.

President.—The Overseer is only to help them.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The Panchayats do not know how to prepare the estimates. Further, in the matter of the maintenance of roads, no estimates or anything of that sort is necessary.

President.—Should not an estimate come from the Panchayat? What is your information in regard to this Panchayat? Were they negligent in this matter, in not sending up the estimate in time? Or is a case in which the Panchayat Member did not sanction them, and, therefore, the work could not be undertaken?

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The Superintendent of Panchayats has not sufficient time to look into all these matters.

President.—Are you in a position to say that the estimate was sent in time, but the Superintendent delayed in sanctioning the same?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—That is my information.

President.—Now, it is negatived by the Member in charge.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(b) If that is the case, then how does these lapses occur?

President.—There is a possibility. It is left to the Panchayat Member to explain. He calls for proposals, and if the proposals are not submitted in time, the amount lapses.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then am I to understand that it is on account of the delay of the Panchayats in sending proposals that these lapses occur?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes.

Chennamangalam roads.

78 **Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the measures they have taken this year to improve the condition of roads and culverts at Chennamangalam?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The Member is referred to items 348, 349, 350, 441, 442 and 443 of the programme of Panchayat works for 1102. (Appendix A of the budget of 1102).

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The Member is referred to items 348, 349, 350, etc., and they are items, I may inform you, which have nothing to do with the roads in Chennamangalam. They are concerned with roads in other villages such as Kodakara, etc.

President.—Do not these items refer to Chennamangalam, etc.?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—No, Sir.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The budget referred to by the Hon'ble Member may be the preliminary edition.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I am sorry, Sir. But I want to bring to your notice that the amount allotted for the repair of roads there is quite insufficient, and Chennamangalam and adjoining villages are generally flooded every year. So more funds may be allotted. I brought this matter to your notice during the last budget session by way of a question, and seeing the scanty allotment for this year also, I have put this question.

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